

Mr. Williams was born in Tyronza, Arkansas on October 17, 1932. He grew up working in the fertile cotton fields of Eastern Arkansas before graduating from Wilson High School in 1950. He spent one year at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and joined the United States Air Force in 1952. As a weather observer in the Air Force, Mr. Williams lived in Alabama, Texas, Illinois and Alaska.

After serving his country in the military, Mr. Williams enrolled at Louisiana State University, where he received a degree in agricultural economics in 1960. After graduation, he spent five years working as a field representative for the National Cotton Council in Louisiana and south Arkansas. While living in Louisiana, Mr. Williams married Barbara Lee Rodgers. They have three sons and currently are the proud grandparents of one granddaughter with a second grandchild on the way.

In 1965, Mr. Williams became executive vice president of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas [ACA] and has now served the members of the ACA for more than 37 years. He has used his experience and expertise to help readers of the ACA newsletter stay informed about the rules and regulations pertaining to farm, environmental and occupational safety and health policy. His influence has assisted policymakers in creating a sound farm policy and farmers in accessing the farm programs available to help them.

He is active in many professional organizations and has served as president of Memphis Agricultural Club and Memphis Society of Association Executives. He was named "Man of the Year" by the Memphis Agricultural Club in 1980. In 1986, Mr. Williams received the prestigious "Man of the Year in Service to Arkansas Agriculture".

On behalf of Congress, I offer my friend, Cecil Williams, Jr., my deepest appreciation and gratitude for his tireless dedication and honorable service to the people of Arkansas and the field of agriculture.

**MAURICE DEAN HENNESSEE: AN  
EXTRAORDINARY AMERICAN**

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Maurice Hennessee of Clio, Michigan. Maurice has used his retirement years to make a difference in the world in which we all live and he has become an important component in spreading democracy and assisting in the infrastructure and educational development of the African nation of Nigeria.

Maurice first served his country while serving as an enlisted man with the United States Air Force's 328th Air Fighter Air Defense Group during the Korean War. Following his tour of duty, he served four years in the Air Force Reserve. He then returned home and began his 38-year career with General Motors Corporation, Buick Motor Division in Flint, Michigan.

However, it was after his retirement from General Motors and during his recovery from experimental surgery to repair a seriously injured foot that Maurice found the path that would lead him to Nigeria. Although he had no

experience in missionary work or fund-raising, Maurice joined Dr. Moses Akpanado's effort to use education to improve the lives of impoverished and disadvantaged Nigerians. Today, there are more than 1000 students who attend the Obong Christian Education System deep in the jungle of Nigeria thanks to those efforts.

Moreover, Maurice and others have expanded their work to include infrastructure improvements and other advancements to provide a healthier and more civilized environment for those living in remote Nigerian communities. There are untold thousands of villagers who now enjoy clean, fresh water as a result of Maurice's determination to dig deep wells. Villages now have power lines, electrical generators, libraries and dormitories all because Maurice and others helped persuade fellow Americans to offer their financial support.

In villages throughout Nigeria, Maurice Hennessee has received many honors. Important buildings on a college campus in that nation bear his name. He has been named Honorary Chief in several villages. In addition, his family has shown him their love and support by becoming involved in his efforts, traveling with him on multiple occasions to Africa, as well as supporting other mission activities in Kenya and Central America with their personal involvement. We owe a debt of gratitude to Maurice, his wife, Earline, and their children, Trina, Gary and Larry, for setting such a fine example of American goodwill.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Maurice and the entire Hennessee family for their dedication in spreading democracy and Christian charity throughout the world and for exemplifying how otherwise ordinary Americans can achieve extraordinary results.

**TRIBUTE TO ELBERTA ERIKSSON**

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize Elberta Eriksson, who is retiring as the Director of the Family Service Agency of Marin's Multi-cultural Outreach Program after thirty years of dedicated service to her community.

Through the years, Elberta has been committed to community service, dedicated to strengthening families and children and advancing human rights. In the early 1970's, as a professional social worker, Ms. Eriksson was one of the first to bring mental health services to Marin City. Through Operation Give a Damn, a grassroots organization that brought a unique mentoring program to the youth of Marin City, Elberta developed a cultural competency program for professional and paraprofessional mental health providers.

Under Ms. Eriksson's visionary leadership, the Multi-Cultural Outreach Program, sponsored by the Family Service Agency of Marin, was launched. Through this esteemed program, Elberta personally provided hundreds of hours of family counseling as well as supervised graduate students from San Francisco State University during their internship, adding a rich, multi-cultural counseling program for the entire county.

In addition to working full-time and raising her young family, Elberta made time in the evening to work as one of the first hot line volunteers at the Marin Suicide Prevention Center. Always generous with her skills and time, Ms. Eriksson has served on many boards and committees, including the Marin County Human Rights Commission, the Marin County Women's Commission, ISOJL of Marin City, America's Angel Campaign, and the Marin City Community Services District.

Ms. Eriksson has contributed her leadership and commitment to provide a model of the importance of community service with the highest ideals for the benefit of many. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is fitting for us to rise today to honor Elberta Eriksson and wish her well in her next adventure.

**TRIBUTE TO BUD BROWN**

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bud Brown for his dedicated efforts to improve the quality of life in our community. His commitment and service to the San Fernando Valley is immeasurable. Throughout his life he has contributed countless hours of community service by supporting various organizations and acting as an effective leader for several groups.

Since his retirement from GTE in 1993, Bud Brown has been a driving force in cultivating relations between the private and public sectors in Los Angeles. His 22 years of experience in the corporate world have been instrumental, in establishing relationships with numerous non-profit organizations throughout the Valley. Bud has found ways to utilize his professional and volunteer talents by serving on the boards of many institutions. Despite his retirement he just recently completed his eighth year as Community Relations Manager at Hamer Toyota in Mission Hills.

During his career in public service he has served as founder and leader of a variety of local organizations. His commitment includes serving as President of New Directions for Youth, Board member of the Fernando Award Foundation, and Major Gifts Committee for the North Valley Family YMCA. He is also a strong supporter of the Holy Cross Medical Center, Mission Hills Chamber of Commerce, and the Los Angeles Mission College Foundation. More recently, he has expanded his efforts to serve as Commissioner for the City of San Fernando.

Bud Brown has been honored with a number of awards in recognition of his accomplishments as a community leader, including the City of Los Angeles Volunteerism Award and KNX Citizen of the Week. Other groups that have noted his tremendous achievements include the San Fernando Valley Girl Scout Council, Encino-Sherman Oaks Optimist Club, Valley Interfaith Council, Heaven on Earth Ranch and the Black American Political Association. Lastly, in 1995 he was one of the first recipients of the prestigious Fernando Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Bud Brown, an amazing individual who has dedicated his life for the betterment of the San Fernando Valley.